



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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## 1998 noxious weed list may include eight new plants

OLYMPIA — Eight new plants may be added to the noxious weed list, and control measures for five species already listed may be expanded in six counties, the state Noxious Weed Control Board announced today. Public comment on the proposals will be heard from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Nov. 18 in the Grant County PUD Auditorium, 312 West Third Avenue in Moses Lake. Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. Nov. 17.

“Noxious weeds are non-native, invasive plants that are highly destructive, competitive or difficult to control,” said Lisa Lantz, executive secretary of the Noxious Weed Control Board. “They cause tremendous damage to agriculture and our natural resources.”

There currently are 101 plants listed as noxious weeds in Washington. The list, which is the basis for weed control efforts in the state, is reviewed and revised annually.

The proposal would add five new plants to the class A noxious weeds list. Class A noxious weeds have very limited distribution or are new invaders that pose a serious threat to the state. Local weed control programs must ensure that landowners eradicate all Class A noxious weeds.

- Yellow devil hawkweed (*Hieracium floribundum*) was found in Thurston County. This plant is capable of overtaking native plants and habitat. It produces many stolons and underground stems, is a prolific seed producer, and is capable of hybridizing with other hawkweed species.
- Clary sage (*Salvia sclarea*) and meadow clary (*S. pratensis*) were found at two sites in Stevens County. They pose a threat to forage production and plant biodiversity by displacing less competitive, more desirable species. The invasive characteristics of *Salvia* species were demonstrated in Idaho, where more than 1,000 acres were covered. Clary sage and meadow clary are close relatives of Mediterranean sage, a Class A noxious weed in Washington that covers extensive areas of rangeland in Idaho, Oregon and California.

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- Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*), a close relative of Scotch broom, was found in Clallam, Mason, Thurston and King counties. This plant aggressively replaces native plants and habitats, is a prolific seed producer and has no natural controls in Washington. While Spanish broom has naturalized in many areas of the west, it is limited to the four counties in Washington.
- Lawnweed (*Soliva sessilis*) was found in Lewis County. This winter annual overtakes managed perennial grasses to become established in high-use recreational and managed lawn areas. Lawnweed produces a very sharp bur that punctures skin and attaches to tires. The burs may then be carried to other locations.

Three new plants are proposed for the Class B noxious weeds list. Class B weeds are non-native, invasive species that now are limited to portions of the state. Weed control is mandatory in regions where they are not yet widespread. In regions where they are widespread, county noxious weed control boards and weed districts may request public hearings to decide if control measures are taken in their jurisdictions.

- Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) would be designated for control in eastern Washington and portions of Clallam, Whatcom, San Juan, Island, Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap and King counties. This weed poses a threat to forest understories and to plant biodiversity in forests of western Washington.
- Smooth hawkweed (*Hieracium laevigatum*) and polar hawkweed (*H. atratum*) were found in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish counties. These prolific seed producers are capable of hybridizing with many exotic and probably with native species. The limited distribution of both species makes it feasible to control and halt their spread.

Additional weed control measures are proposed for Skagit, Adams, King, Clallam, Okanogan and Douglas counties. All of the weeds to be controlled are class B noxious weeds. Kochia would be designated for control in Skagit County; puncturevine would be designated for control in Skagit and Adams counties; orange hawkweed would be designated for control in Skagit, King, Clallam and Okanogan counties; yellow hawkweed would be designated for control in Okanogan County;

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and Dalmatian toadflax would be designated for control in an expanded area of Douglas County north of Highway 2.

For a copy of the proposed changes, or to submit written comments, contact Lisa Lantz, Executive Secretary, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, 1851 South Central Place, Suite 211, Kent, Washington 98031-7507, (253) 872-2972. Written comments may be sent by FAX to (253) 872-6320.

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**Note to editors:** For more information about noxious weeds, or the noxious weeds list, contact Lisa Lantz, Noxious Weed Control Board at (253) 872-2972.